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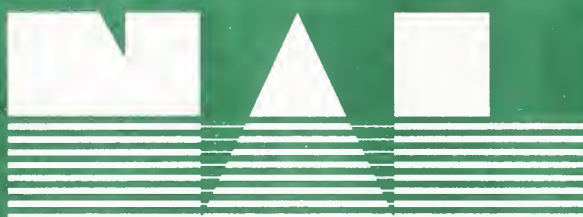


Upper Darby, Pa.

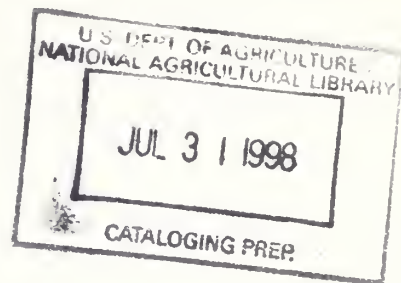
TRENDS IN AVERAGE ANNUAL
EMPLOYMENT IN TIMBER BASED INDUSTRIES
OF
RHODE ISLAND
1958 to 1967

Division of Cooperative Forest Mgmt.

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

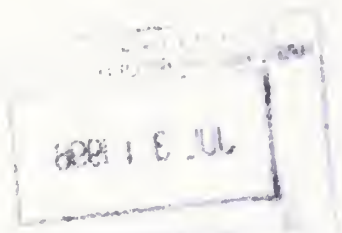


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TRENDS IN AVERAGE ANNUAL
EMPLOYMENT IN TIMBER BASED INDUSTRIES
OF
RHODE ISLAND
1958 to 1967

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Introduction

Employment in the timber-based industries in Rhode Island is relatively minor when compared to all manufacturing employment. However, there were in total, nearly 4,000 people employed, and to these people and their 12 to 14,000 dependents, trends in employment could be very important, particularly as they reflect career possibilities.

Foresters and other conservation people in the State can use trend data on employment in several ways. For example, such data could be used to assist in rural area development plans and projects. Data could be used also in manpower development plans of States. Finally, the data could be helpful in forest resource management planning.

In Rhode Island, most employment is in secondary or tertiary wood-using industries. Employment data indicates that most of the State industries depend on log and wood-fibre supplies from outside the State. Apparently very little of the necessary log supplies used come from State forest resources.

In general, the timber-based industries in Rhode Island appear to have become stronger in the 10-year periods. Employment in all three of the major manufacturing classifications increased. This appears to be unique among the six New England States. Of the 11 manufacturing categories in the three major classifications, seven showed an increase in employment, two had no change, and one showed a decline. One furniture firm or firms with a small employment roll, recorded first in 1959, apparently ceased operations in 1966.

All data used in this report were obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor, which in turn, secures the data from State Labor Services.

A. - Lumber and Wood Products (SIC 24)

No employment is shown in the logging category, SIC 241, indicating the absence of any significant harvesting activities in the State. The absence of employment data shows only that there is perhaps no logging employment covered by unemployment insurance provisions, (All employment records provided by State and Federal labor agencies include only the "covered" employment).

1. - Sawmills and Planing Mills (SIC 242)

Sawmill and Planing Mill employment increased from 9 to 12 between 1958 and 1967. Covered employment indicates that mills of these types are of minor importance in the economy of the State, and in management of the forest resources. The number employed would help explain the absence of covered employment in logging.

2. - Millwork, Veneer, Plywood Plants (SIC 243)

Employment rose from 80 people in 1958 to 230 in 1967, the greatest percentage rise of any of the 11 categories. In other New England States, this category usually was one of the few, or the only one, to show an increase in the Lumber and Wood Products classification. In Rhode Island as in other New England States, plants in this category apparently are finding a healthy climate for growth or expansion.

3. - Wood Boxes and Containers (SIC 244)

Employment nearly doubled between 1958 and 1967, rising from 60 to 110. Manufacturers in this category apparently have a different market situation, or are producing for different markets than those

in northern New England States. Except for Connecticut, which shows a similar increase in employment, the other four states show a decline in employment in these manufacturing firms.

4. - Wood Products Firms Not Elsewhere Classified (Misc.) (SIC 249)

Employment in this miscellaneous group of manufacturers increased over 60 percent from 80 to 130 people. Usually, firms in this category employ more female workers than any other in the Lumber and Wood Products classification. Although the total number employed is small, it is possible that the employment provided by these firms often represents a second job to a female member of a family.

B. - Furniture and Fixtures, (SIC 25)

Employment in this classification includes employees of both wood and metal furniture and fixtures manufacturers. It is not possible to distinguish between the two in a 3-digit coding of data. It is assumed that most employment in the Household Furniture, SIC 251 category is in wood furniture plants. In the other categories, it is assumed that about half the employment is in timber-based manufacturing plants.

1. - Household Furniture (SIC 251)

Employment was relatively unchanged in the 10-year period, with little evidence of any trend. Except for 1960 and 1964, annual employment ranged between 122 and 140, not much variation from the 130 average employed in 1958. The stability in employment in this category when viewed alongside the growth in others could indicate an unfavorable market or competitive situation for the firms involved.

2. - Office Furniture (SIC 252)

Employment data were shown only for the years 1959 to 1966. Whether the small firms involved ceased operations or were changed to another furniture group was not determined. From 1960 to 1966, employment ranged between 28 and 40 people, with an average of about 32.

3. - Partitions and Fixtures (SIC 254)

A 50 percent rise in employment was shown at the end of ten years, from 160 to 240. During the decade, average employment ranged between the 160 low in 1958 and a 270 high in 1966. It would appear that employment opportunities were growing in this category.

4. - Furniture and Fixtures Not Elsewhere Classified, (SIC 259)

There was fairly stable employment in this category from 1959 to 1965, ranging from between 245 and 286. In 1966, employment rose to 380, then dropped to 340 in 1967. The figure for 1958 was 213. In general, employment opportunities appear to be increasing.

C. - Paper and Allied Products, (SIC 26)

Firms in this classification account for the bulk of the employment in timber-based industries in the State. Data indicate that well over half of all timber-based employment is in Paper Box and Container firms (SIC 265), or in firms dependent on raw products imports into the State.

1. - Converted Paper Products (SIC 264)

Employment at the end of the decade at 480 was little different than the 450 at the start. For four years, from 1961 to 1964, employment was down, averaging about 372 people, about 90 less than the average for the other six years. A highly competitive

manufacturing category, the rising and falling in employment suggest that Rhode Island firms were finding competition from other States quite severe. Additional employment opportunities would appear to be questionable.

2. - Paper Boxes, Tubes, Containers, (SIC 265)

Percentage-wise the 55 percent increase in employment in this category exceeds that of any other New England State. All six states registered an increase in employment in the decade, and both Connecticut and Massachusetts have a greater employment.

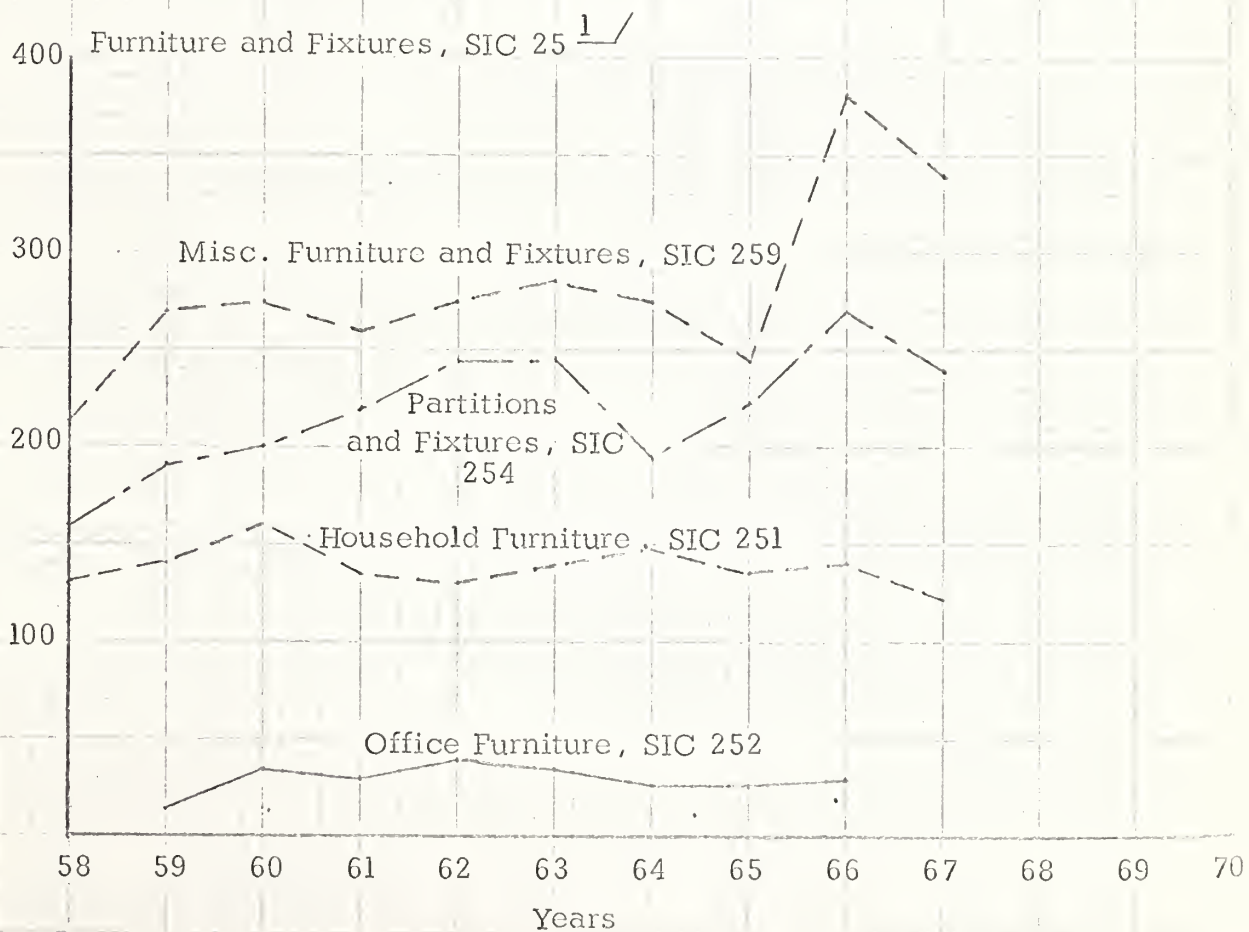
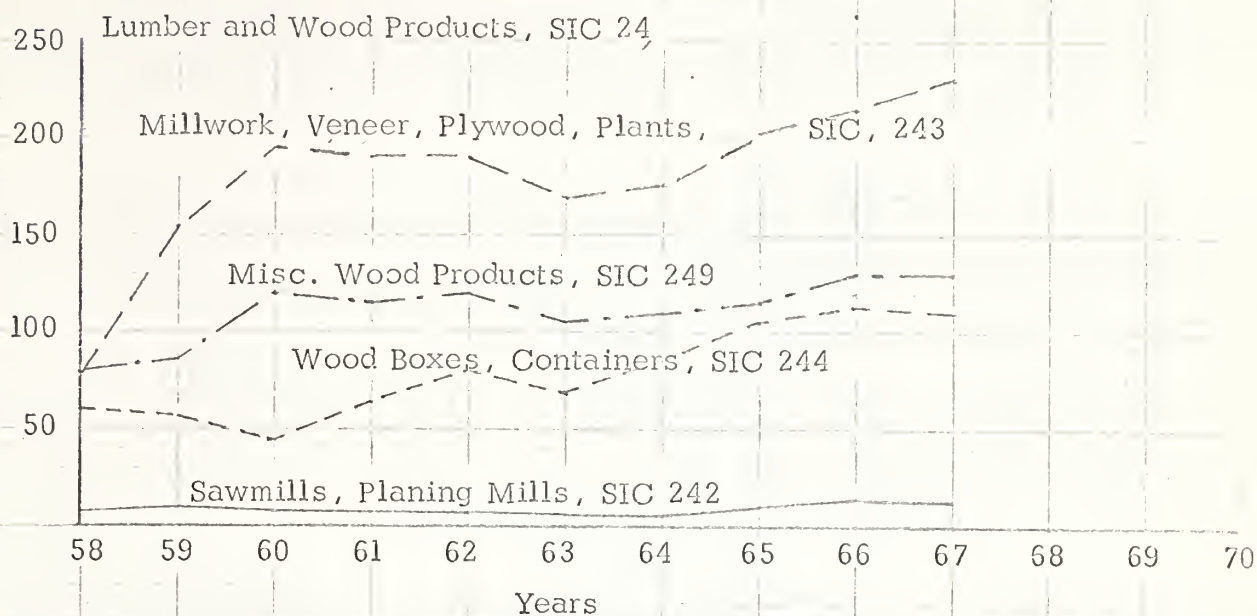
Employment increased every year from 1390 in 1958 to 2150 in 1967. The greatest increases occurred in the three years from 1964 to 1967. Not an especially high wage industry in Maine, the growth of this industry in Rhode Island may be a somewhat mixed blessing.

3. - Building Paper and Board Mills, (SIC 266)

The only category to show a distinct employment decline, (except for the one with no employment data for 1967, Office Furniture), employment nevertheless appears stable. There were 205 employed in 1958, and 170 in 1967. The minor decline in numbers may reflect the increasing automation taking place in most firms in this category. If so, the number employed may have become stabilized at between 165 and 180, the range in numbers between 1964 and 1967, or an average of about 171 people.

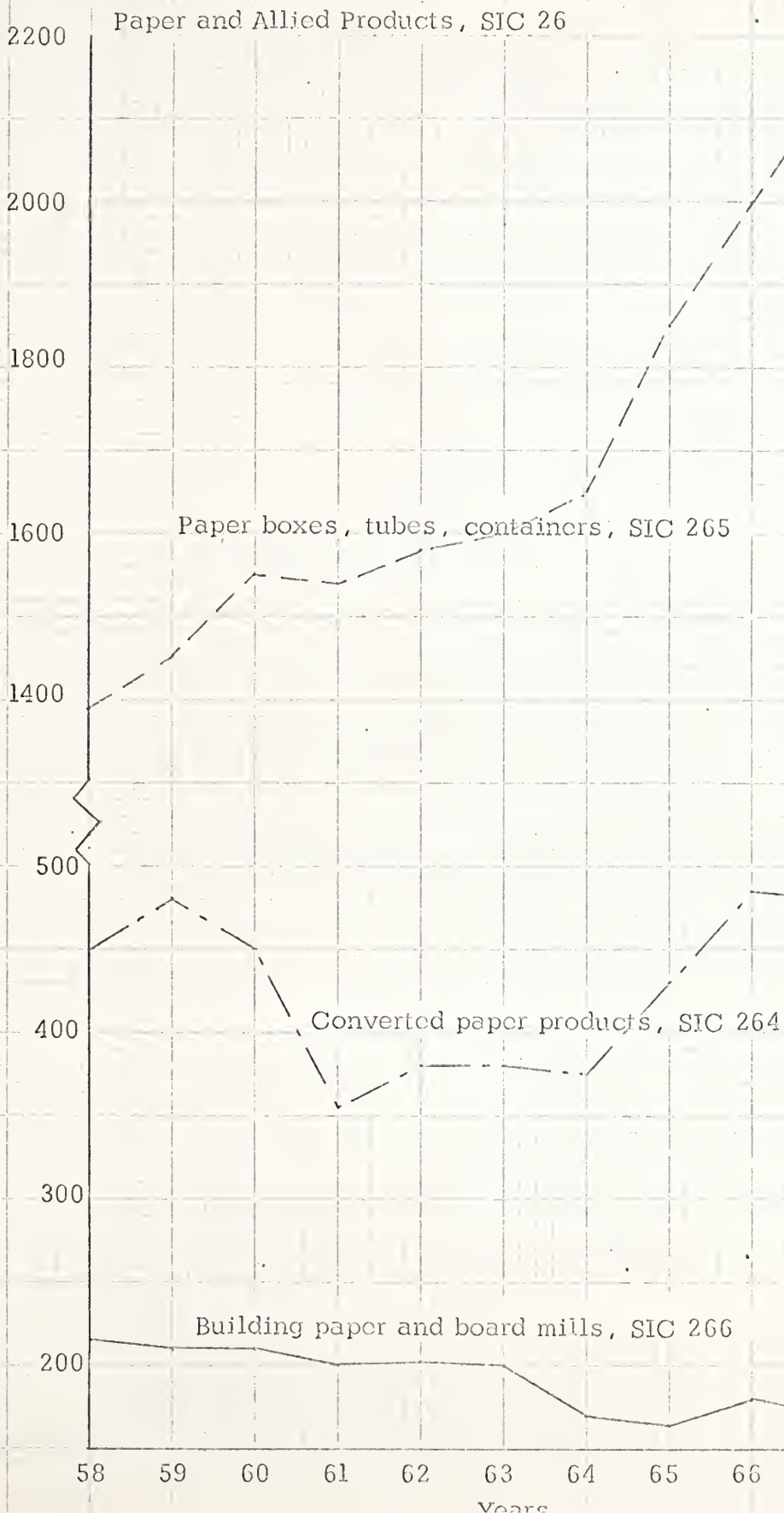
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ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND TIMBER-BASED INDUSTRIES, 1958 TO 1967



^{1/} Includes metal and wood furniture manufacturers.

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AVERAGE ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND TIMBER-
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